29 GRIPES ABOUT THE FILIPINOS

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FOREWORD

Finding fault with other people can be a pleasant PX pastime—until it begins to interfere with the everyday problem of getting along with the people you criticize.

We've been back in the Philippines for a long time now, ever since the Leyte campaign in 1944. And we've had the everyday problem of getting along with the people who were here before we came and who will be here after we leave.

In the early days, coming to the Philippines was a little like coming home—especially for those who had to sweat out the long months in New Guinea or the monotonous rocks of the Pacific. Here, many Filipinos spoke English, knew something about America, enjoyed our movies and magazines and coca cola, and—most important of all—thought we were the swellest people in the world. And so the honeymoon began.

But it couldn't last. No honeymoon ever does. We began to pick out each other's faults. We found that Filipinos weren't perfect, and they discovered that we weren't ex-

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actly angels, either. Out of this came wrangles, gripes, complaints.

Now that the honeymoon is really over, it is time to take stock. That is what this booklet is for.

This is a booklet about Filipinos—and about some of the faults that some GIs find with some Filipinos. It is not a defense of the Filipinos. Neither is it an attack on people who criticize Filipinos. It is simply straight talk about honest GI gripes.

It's not whitewash. It's not excuses. Maybe some jokers will call it propaganda—and, if they feel strongly about it, there's no answer to that. Except this: that you don't destroy the truth by calling it something else. You can ignore it; but you can't destroy it.

Here's the way this booklet works. We've made a list of the most frequent GI criticisms of Filipinos—29 gripes in all—and we've compiled the answers.

Sometimes these answers are nothing more than a matter of getting facts straight. An example would be Gripe No. 28, on the Philippine Army T/O. Sometimes the problem is not so much the facts, but what they mean—so we've put in interpretation where necessary. An example would be Gripe No. 12, on Filipino initiative. And sometimes it's merely a matter of recognizing a gripe as being based on fact, at least in part, and then taking a look at ourselves to

see whether we aren't guilty of the same objectionable characteristics. This is the "you're another" technique; an example would be Gripe No. 3, on whether Filipinos can hold their liquor.

What it all adds up to, in a single paragraph, is this:

Filipinos are like Americans: some of them you can like and some not. Naturally, they don't resemble Americans in every way—they're descendants of a different race, with a different history, a different country, different problems of living. But, because of what's happened during the past forty-odd years, we've gotten to understand one another better than most other Occidentals and Orientals. Result is that Filipinos have plenty in common with us. Some of their ideas and habits may seem peculiar to us—but we sometimes strike them as peculiar, too.

They're worth getting along with, not only because during the war they were our bravest friends in the Pacific, but also because from now on we need their peacetime friendship as much as they need ours.

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THE NATIONAL CHARACTER

THE PEOPLE

1. *"The Filipinos have no culture of their own. They imitate everything American, the bad as well as the good."*

No nation worth its salt has a "culture of its own." Certainly America doesn't. We have picked up many of our ideas, habits, foods, arts, from all parts of the world. We learned democracy from the French, justice from the English, cookery from every corner of Europe, philosophy from the ancient Greeks. We took all these things to ourselves and made an American "culture" out of them.

The Filipinos have done pretty much the same thing. When the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines, about four hundred years ago, the island people were ripe for new ideas. They learned plenty from Spain—Christianity, for example. Today the Philippines is the only predominantly Christian nation in the Orient. But Spanish colonial rule

was very backward and oppressive. The Spaniards deliberately tried to hold the Filipinos down, to keep them in ignorance, to tangle them up in brutality and bureaucracy during the 350-year lesson in Spanish culture. The Filipinos revolted against Spain on an average of once every two years during those 350 years, but not until fifty years ago did they finally succeed.

At that point the United States entered the picture. We took possession of the Philippines, and proceeded to conduct a program of mass education that has naturally left its mark on the people. We taught them the English language, in schools run on the American model, from American textbooks, using American ideas. Many Filipinos know as much about American history and democratic ideas as many Americans do.

And out of this background, the people here have made a new mixture—a mixture of Malayan-Spanish-American-Filipino culture. It isn't all good, or all bad. It's a little of both, just as ours is.

We have crime, crooked politics, cheap newspapers, slums, and a lot of other things in the United States that we're not proud of. So have the Filipinos. So has every other nation this side of heaven.

2. *"The Filipinos steal everything that isn't nailed down."*

Let's take a look at ourselves for a minute, and see whether we are without sin. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, in the single year 1942 there were 1,436,748 criminal offenses reported in the United States—about 1½ times the number of people in the entire city of Manila. During an average day in that year there were 129 robberies, 729 burglaries, 459 thefts of automobiles, and 2,416 other thefts. That was the record for a single *day* back home, in a country where there is no devastation, no inflation, no acute shortages of foods and supplies.

Now let's get back to the Philippines. You don't have to be told what the war has done to this place; you can see it all around you. People are hungry, homeless, and ragged. Even those who have jobs suffer from the inflated cost of living. A Manila stenographer who lives in Pasay or Santa Ana may spend half her salary just to get to and from town. A meal in a cheap café costs an Army-employed clerical worker more than a day's wages.

Conditions like these tend to break down obedience to law. And, when pilfering does occur, it's likely to happen in places where there is plenty of stuff worth stealing—such as U. S. Army installations. That's why, as a soldier,

THE NATIONAL CHARACTER

you are likely to see more pilfering than you would if you lived outside the Army environment.

Speaking of pilfering, there's another name for it. Scrounging. When a Filipino takes something that doesn't belong to him, that's pilfering. When a GI does it, that's scrounging. Is one any worse, or any better, than the other?

3. *"They can't hold their liquor."*

Anybody who drinks too much blows his cork. Filipinos do it less often than GI's. How about yourself?

4. *"Why don't they learn how to drive a car? Why don't they get out of the way when they're walking? They just can't handle machinery."*

Americans have a tradition of mechanical aptitude so marked that it has almost become a national gift. Few nations can equal us in this. One reason is that we have the cars, and they don't. In normal times, we have a car for practically every family in the United States. In November 1945, there were about 130,000 Army vehicles operating in the Manila area alone—more than in the entire Philippines before the war.

That also helps explain the pedestrian problem. People

here, especially outside Manila, aren't used to an avalanche of traffic. They're accustomed to carretelas, not to jeeps and 6 by 6 trucks.

Another reason is the old habit of driving to the left, instead of to the right, which we changed after we returned to the Philippines. Old habits die hard. If an elderly Filipino steps right into the path of your jeep, remember that she is accustomed to looking to the right, not left, for traffic. GI's who were in England, where left-hand traffic was retained, know how hard it is to get used to a new system.

5. *"The Filipinos are inefficient."*

Like many other people—including people in France, England, and other places which have done pretty well for themselves culturally—most Filipinos don't share our worship of speed in getting things done. They are heirs to a more leisurely culture, a slower tempo of living. Partly they learned this from the Spaniards, and partly from the tropical sun.

Sometimes a GI will conclude that Filipino farmers are lazy because they're not out in the fields working. Most often, they're judging by what they see (or don't see) in the middle of the day. That's when the sun is hottest, and when the farmer is very sensibly taking his noon-day

siesta. He's probably finished most of his heavy work in the coolness of the very early morning.

THE CUSTOMS

6. *"The Filipino social customs are too strait-laced. The chaperon system prevents any sort of companionship between men and women, Filipino or otherwise. And the girls are too conventional."*

Social customs in the Philippines have a strong Spanish influence. For 350 years, this influence tended to shield the women of the family from outside contacts. Chaperons protected unmarried girls, and the woman's place was strictly in the home. By their Malayan traditions, marriages were generally arranged by the parents rather than by the two people most directly concerned.

Since Spain was thrown out of the Philippines, the position of women has greatly advanced. Women have gone into politics, business and the arts. They have the franchise. And they often control the family purse strings. But there is still a residue of the old Malayan and Spanish customs. You aren't going to change that single-handed, and there's no reason why you should try.

7. *"I am annoyed by the Filipino custom of playing band music at funerals, and holding a party on the ninth day after death. It doesn't seem dignified."*

There is an old story about an American who was amused by the Chinese custom of putting rice on a grave so that the departed spirit would not go hungry.

"When do you expect the departed to come back for his rice?" the American asked a Chinese friend.

"He will come back," the Chinese replied, "when your corpse returns to smell his flowers."

Moral: Other people's customs seem almost as strange to you as yours do to them.

8. *The Filipinos are personally insanitary. The girls squat in public and the boys urinate against any handy wall."*

Wherever there is poverty and ruin, there is lack of plumbing. This means no flush toilets, and no public comfort stations. Where there is a lack of plumbing, there is also a lack of appreciation of the need for public sanitation. Result is that, in the war-torn Philippines, you often see insanitary conditions. You see the same thing in prac-

tically the entire Orient, in many parts of Europe, and even in backward areas of the United States.

The solution to insanitary conditions is not merely education but plumbing. And the way to get plumbing is to raise the standard of living. Until that happens, you don't get very far.

Incidentally, whatever the conditions you may have noticed, the fact is that Filipinos are probably the cleanest people in the Orient. They wash as often as they can get hold of some precious soap, and they try to keep their ragged clothing clean and neat. That's about the best they can do, under the circumstances.

9. *"The caste system here is vicious. The mestizos look down on the Filipinos, both look down on the Igorots and Negritos, and the Spaniards look down on everybody."*

It is pretty easy for an outsider to exaggerate the differences between various parts of the local population. We have such differences at home, too—differences between whites and Negroes, for example, or among religious groups, or between Northerners and Southerners. The test is whether these differences are so great as to work a hard-

ship on some groups and not on others. Where that happens—and it happens in America at least as much as in the Philippines—it's bad. By and large, the Filipinos have done a better job of getting along with one another than most people predicted when they went on their own.

THE COUNTRY

10. *"The Filipinos live in ramshackle homes, which they accept complacently without doing anything to raise their living standards."*

In the USA, the richest country in the world, 32 percent of all homes have no private bath, 28 percent have no flush toilet, and 17 percent have no running water. A stranger visiting the slums of New York or Washington or Chicago might even come to the conclusion that the slum-dwellers accept their lot complacently without wanting to do anything about it.

Bad living conditions are caused by low living standards. Before the war, the Philippines had the highest standard of living in the Orient. It was pretty low, by American lights, but it was very high, by Far Eastern lights. Now the war has left its aftermath of devastation, and the standard of living has taken a dive. The only way to solve this problem is by means of a long-range program of rehabilita-

tion and reconstruction, which the Philippine Government is trying to work out with American help.

The nipa hut is native to the Philippines. It is to this country what the log cabin is to Americans or the igloo to Eskimos. The average nipa hut is clean and orderly inside.

11. *"There's too damned much mud in this place."*

Sure there is. Wherever there's an Army there's mud. In the Civil War the soldiers griped about the Virginia mud. In World War I the soldiers griped about the mud of France. Now we have mud in the Philippines, especially when the rainy season happens along to help out.

Before the war, when roads and streets were paved, Manila had the reputation of being the cleanest city in the Orient. That was before the heavy traffic of war chewed up the streets, which were already in a bad state because the Japanese made no repairs for three years.

When things get back to normal here—which will probably be some time after you leave the Philippines—there won't be more than a normal amount of rainy-season mud in the Islands.

THE FILIPINOS AND AMERICA

12. *"They yelled plenty for independence, but they want Uncle Sam to keep helping them after they get their independence."*

The Filipinos have always wanted their independence, just as the American colonists wanted the same thing back in 1776. The American colonists had to fight a Revolutionary War in order to get what they wanted. The Filipinos, after the first conflict a long time ago, found that America was ready to help them achieve independence without bloodshed. The ceremonies in Manila on July 4, 1946, came after a long and bloody war, but it was not a Filipino war against America. It was a common war against a common enemy: Japan.

This event—achievement of independence without revolution against the United States—is one of the most important developments in the whole record of colonial policy. It is something that we can truly be proud of, as

Americans. It may, indeed, set a pattern for the solution of colonial problems in many other parts of the world.

But, in our complicated world, no nation can long enjoy political independence unless it also has some measure of security and prosperity. That is true of the Philippines, as it is of every other country. If it had not been for the war, the Filipinos would by now be enjoying both security

and prosperity along with their independence. But the war has changed many things. It has destroyed the cities and towns of the Philippines, has wiped out industry and seriously harmed agriculture, so that the Philippines could not possibly stand on its own feet without help from us.

That is why the United States has voluntarily offered to help the Filipinos. The help is offered in two ways. One way is to compensate people in the Philippines for damage caused during the war, so that they can rebuild the country and get back to normalcy. This damage was suffered at a time when the islands were *American territory,* and when the Filipinos were *American nationals.* They have as much right to our help as would the inhabitants of Alaska, California, or Vermont, if those places were devastated because of the war.

The second form of help from the United States is the reestablishment of free trade. A few months ago Congress unanimously passed a Philippine Trade Act, which permits a certain amount of Philippine products to enter the American market free of duty for 8 years, after which, for 20 years, they will come to the United States under a gradually increasing tariff. In this way, it will be possible for agriculture and industry in the Philippines to get back on their feet. That will help the Filipinos. It will also help us. Before the war, these islands were the sixth largest custo-

mer of the United States. There were hundreds of American products of which Filipinos bought more than any other people in the world. We cannot sell our goods to the Philippines unless the Filipinos sell their goods to us.

This kind of help is not a gift from America. It is payment of a debt we owe to people who stood by us throughout the war, even when things looked very bad for our side. And it is also good business sense for the United States.

13. *"They're waiting for Uncle Sam to pay their way all over again."*

All over again? Let's see.

From 1898 to 1940, the United States Government spent a little more than one billion dollars on the account of the Philippines. Of this amount, eight hundred millions went to the United States Army stationed in the Philippines—stationed there as part of our own defense program. Another hundred million went to the Navy, for the same reason. The rest of the amount covered the costs of the Philippine Insurrection, in the years 1898 to 1902.

There were some other items, of course. In 1903, our Congress appropriated three million dollars for Philippine relief following a great cholera epidemic. (We gave the Japanese ten millions after their earthquake in 1923.) The same year we spent $350,000 for a census in the Philip-

pines. The Coast and Geodetic Survey spent six and a half million dollars on chart-making which largely benefited American naval and shipping interests, and the Department of Agriculture spent several hundred thousand dollars for agricultural services.

Aside from these expenditures, everything else was paid for by the Filipinos. That includes education, public works, government services, and even the salaries and expenses of the American Governor General up to 1935, when the Commonwealth Government was established.

The money we spent to help the Filipinos wouldn't rebuild a block of Escolta's business section. Even private American investment was meager—two hundred millions, or about one percent of all American investments abroad.

Another big point to remember: The United States was committed to defend the Philippines. We took on that duty ourselves; nobody asked us to. It was part of our foreign policy in the Pacific. And we failed. The people we were supposed to protect had to live under Japanese oppression for 3 years. When liberation finally came, it was accompanied by wholesale destruction. Most of that destruction was our own doing, because we had to shell the cities into rubble in order to lick the Japanese. But, in spite of everything, the Filipinos remained loyal to America. If all this doesn't place on us a great obligation to

help them rebuild, then we'd better get a new definition of "obligation."

14. *"The Filipinos showed no initiative in cleaning up Manila after the Japanese left. They left it up to God and the Corps of Engineers."*

To clean up a city after a battle, you need bulldozers, steam shovels, 5-ton Diamond T dump trucks, and a lot of other equipment. If you don't have this equipment, the rubble stays. If you do have the equipment, the rubble gets cleaned up. The Filipinos didn't have the equipment. We did.

15. *"We can't rely on these Filipinos."*

That depends on what you mean by "rely." If you expect the Filipinos to react like Americans, you will be disappointed. They are not Americans; they are Filipinos. If you expect the Filipinos to hurry the way we do, you will be disappointed; the Filipinos don't hurry—neither do most of the people in the world outside of America.

But we *were* able to rely on the Filipinos for the most important thing: they fought with us, not against us, when the chips were down in the toughest war we've ever been in.

THE GI SLANT

16. *"You can't trust them. They tell you what they think you want to hear."*

Other people's standards of courtesy don't always correspond to ours. In the Orient, it is generally considered good manners to be agreeable to strangers, even when you don't agree with them. This often means that Filipinos, like many other people in the Far East, will tell you what they think you want to hear. There is nothing sneaky or deceiving about this. It is simply a different way of looking at life.

But you will discover that, when you become really good friends with a Filipino, he is likely to be as straightforward with you as you are with him. That is part of his code of good manners, too.

17. *"The Filipino women either don't, or they're diseased. The VD rate is sky high."*

Shacking up with easy pick-ups is a risk anywhere in the world, including the USA. The Philippines is no exception.

As for the VD rate, it *is* sky high. So are the TB rate, epidemic disease, and a lot of other ailments caused by hunger, poverty, bad housing, and insufficient medical care. Before the war, medical facilities in the Philippines were pretty good. The Japanese occupation changed that. You can't fight disease without hospitals, clinics, sanitation, and medicine.

18. *"The Filipinos gyp you at every turn."*

The price of everything is four to five times above normal on Philippine markets. This is caused by an oversupply of purchasing power and an undersupply of goods to purchase. The U. S. Army, which has left inflation in its wake wherever it has gone, played a large part in bringing inflation to the Philippines. If a bottle of whiskey brings three times its Stateside price, that is because too many GI's have the price of a bottle and are willing to pay it. Filipino customers have to pay the same prices as we do. They don't like it, either.

Of course, *some* Filipinos have certainly gypped *some* Americans. We remember the times we were gypped. We forget the number of times we were not. How many times were *you* treated fairly and honestly?

19. *"They sell you poisoned liquor."*

That happens sometimes—if you're willing to buy the stuff. The brewing business rehabilitated in a hurry when we came to the Philippines, because thousands of GI's were equipped with a healthy thirst and not too much discrimination. The liquor was brewed poorly, hastily, and sometimes with dangerous ingredients. Same thing happened in coastal China, in France, and the USA during prohibition.

20. *"The Filipinos are trying to get as much out of the GI as possible, and they give as little as possible in return."*

When the honeymoon ends, the law of supply and demand steps in. Prices are high because many GI's are willing to pay them. You hear this same complaint about businessmen located near any large Army installation, here or back in the States.

PHILIPPINE POLITICS

21. *"The Filipinos took no steps to halt the black market, by rationing and price controls."*

By the time the shooting was over in the Philippines, the cupboard was bare. Rationing is fine if you have something to ration. Price controls can work when there is a reasonable and predictable flow of goods.

But the situation here is one of acute shortages. The islands are not now self-supporting even in farm products. Most of the food, clothing, and other consumer goods in the Philippines must be imported, generally from the United States. And there is nowhere near enough to meet the needs.

This is the kind of situation that breeds inflation and black markets. The same thing has happened in every other country where there are acute shortages—from Greece to China. Most of them have tried price controls, as the Filipinos have, but it just doesn't work.

Even back home, where the shortages cannot be compared with those in virtually any other country, our ra-

tioning and price control machinery has never been fully able to stamp out the black markets and the serious rise in the cost of living.

22. *"The country is dominated by remnants of the old Spanish ruling class. The big landowners and industrialists exploit the rest of the population."*

Many Filipinos rcognize that the country suffers because it has practically no middle class, and that there is a certain amount of economic injustice in the islands. They

also know that this problem can only be solved by the Filipino people themselves—just as it is up to Americans to solve the problems of economic injustice that may exist in the United States.

23. *"'Democracy' is just a catchword to the Filipinos. They don't know what it is all about."*

Democracy is a system that has to adapt itself to each country that adheres to it. If democracy means free speech, free press, free religion, free elections, minority rights protected by law, then the Filipinos have it. Maybe their democracy isn't perfect. Maybe it doesn't quite fit your own ideas. But democracy is healthier in the Philippines than anywhere else in the Orient.

24. *"The Falange is riding high in the Philippines. Some of the most powerful men in Philippine business and politics were ardent Franco Supporters."*

There were people back home, too, who thought we could do business with the Axis, and who argued that Franco was just a great big misunderstood Boy Scout. They have their counterparts here.

25. *Filipino administrators are grafters; they run the black market and control the local shakedowns."*

Some are crooked, but not all. We have crooks in the States, too. Many are behind bars; the rest should be.

THE FILIPINOS AS FIGHTERS

26. *"The Filipinos are good only as garrison soldiers. They look fine in Manila, with their boots shined and pants pressed, but they're not worth a nickel in the field."*

Think so? The Japanese on Bataan wouldn't have agreed with you. The majority of the ground troops on that bloody peninsula, during the weeks of desperate fighting, were Filipinos. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright tells how the troops on Bataan "preferred death to defeat." In his book, General Wainwright says: "My aide, Johnny Pugh, found a dead Philippine Scout sergeant with his right hand cut off at the wrist. His pistol lay close to the left hand. In front of the sergeant was a dead Jap lieutenant. Beside him was his bloody sword. The Scout with the severed right hand had killed the Jap with his left."

In 1941 there were 12,000 Philippine Scouts; in 1945 only 6,000 were still alive. Most of the rest died fighting.

27. *"The Filipino soldiers make no bones about going into the PX, buying up everything in sight, selling it on the black market, and coming back for more."*

Some Filipino soldiers do this. So do some American GI's. Both kinds are chiselers. We would be in a better position to criticize if our own hands were clean.

28. *"The Philippine Army T/O is ridiculous. There are apparently no officers below field grade, and all the enlisted men are master sergeants."*

Anybody who says this simply doesn't know what he's talking about. The Philippine Army T/O is approved by the United States War Department. It is about the same as the T/O in our own Army. In Manila, where Philippine Army headquarters are located, there's more brass than in the Provinces. That happens to be true of any HQ. You wouldn't judge the whole U. S. Army T/O by what you'd see at the Pentagon Building in Washington—or, for that matter, at GHQ of AFWESPAC.

29. *"The Filipinos tend to exaggerate the contribution they made as guerrilla fighters."*

There are some phonies who claim to have been guerillas now that it's safe. The Filipinos call them "1945 guerrillas."

But what about the others? Here's what General MacArthur said about them, on Leyte in October 1944:

"As our forces of liberation roll forward, the splendid aid we are receiving from guerilla units throughout the immediate objective area and adjacent islands causes me at this time to pay public tribute to those great patriots, both Filipino and American, who have led and supported the resistance movement in the Philippines since the dark days of 1942.

"These inadequately armed patriots have fought the enemy for more than two years. Most are Filipinos, but among these are a number of Americans who never surrendered, who escaped from prison camps, or who were sent in to carry out specific missions . . .

"We are materially aided by a string of battle-tested forces in nearly every Philippine community, alerted to strike violent blows against the enemy's rear as our lines of battle move forward, and that are now providing countless large areas adjacent to military objectives into which

our airmen may drop, with assurance of immediate rescue and protection . . .

"We are aided by the fact that, for many months, our plans of campaign have benefitted from the hazardous labors of a vast network of agents, numbering into the hundreds of thousands, providing precise, accurate and

detailed information on major enemy moves and installations throughout the Philippine Archipelago. We are aided by the fact that through a vast network of radio positions, extending into every center of enemy activity and concentration throughout the islands, I have been kept in immediate and constant communication with such widespread sources of information.

"We are aided by the fact that, on every major island of the Philippines, there are one or more completely equipped and staffed weather observatories which flash to my headquarters full weather data morning, afternoon and night of every day, and which in turn provides the basis for reliable weather forecasts to facilitate and secure the implementation of our operation plan . . .

"We are aided by an air warning system affording visual observation of the air over nearly every square foot of Philippine soil. It was established for the purpose of flashing immediate warning of enemy aircraft movement through that same vast network of radio communications.

"We are aided by provision of all inland waterways and coastal areas of complete observation over enemy naval movements to give immediate target information to our submarines who patrol in and near Philippine waters. This information has contributed to the sinking of enemy shipping of enormous tonnage. And through the same fa-

cilities was flashed the warning to our naval forces of the enemy naval concentration off the eastern Philippines during the Marianas operation.

"Finally, we are aided by the close interior vigilance that has secured for our military use countless enemy documents of great value, among which were the secret defensive plans and instructions of the commander-in-chief of the combined Japanese fleet, to counter our offensive action in the several Pacific areas, and complete information on the strength and distribution of enemy fleets and naval air units."

Any nation would have a right to brag about a guerrilla record like that.

LAST WORD

Before we wind up, let's recapitulate. We've listed 29 gripes and 29 answers. You yourself could probably add another dozen gripes, and, if you're honest with yourself, you could probably answer them yourself. The answers, as we've said, boil down to three types:

First, are you sure the facts are straight?

Second, are you sure you know the reasons behind the things to which you object?

Third, are you sure we aren't guilty of the same objectionable practices?

Against these three tests, most GI gripes about the Filipinos don't stand up. What they do show is that Filipinos are just plain human beings who happened to be born with dark skins in an archipelago of tropical islands ruled for a long time by the Spaniards and for a short time by the Americans—that they are doing their best under terribly difficult conditions—and that they're pretty good Joes when you get to know them.

The foreword to this booklet wound up with this remark:

"They're worth getting along with, not only because during the war they were our bravest friends in the Pacific, but also because from now on we need their peacetime friendship as much as they need ours."

Let's spell that out.

On July 4, 1946, the Philippines became independent. This was the climax of an experiment in colonial administration which the whole world has watched. It was an experiment in fair play, in the American spirit. Now the pay-off comes. Will it work? Sure it will, if we realize that the Filipinos still want to be our close friends—that they see themselves as interpreters of American ideas and culture in the Far East—that they still want to play ball in our league.

American power and American prestige in the Pacific depend on how well we get along with the Filipinos from here on out. Partly, that is a job for the men in authority in Washington and Manila. Partly—and maybe more important—it is a job for every one of us stationed here in the Philippines now.

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